

August 21, 2001

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review is the Draft Checklist Environmental Assessment (EA) for a modified process valley reclamation plan at the CR Kendall (CRK) Corporation, CR Kendall Mine 7 miles west of Hilger, MT. CRK applied for an Amended Closure Plan to Operating Permit 00122 on March 8, 2001. This Draft EA evaluates the potential impacts from the current approved reclamation plan as well as an Agency Modified Plan. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) must decide whether to reaffirm the current approved plan which is CRK's proposal or approve an Agency Modified Plan.

DEQ has selected the Agency Modified Plan as the preferred alternative. This is not a final decision. This conclusion may change based on comments received from the public on this Draft EA, new information, or new analysis that may be needed in preparing the Final EA.

Information on the project and copies of the EA can be obtained by writing or calling the Montana Department of Environmental Quality c/o Patrick Plantenberg, P. O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620, telephone (406) 444-4960; e-mail address pplantenberg@state.mt.us. The EA will also be posted on the DEQ web page: www.deq.state.mt.us.

Public comments concerning the adequacy and accuracy of the Draft EA will be accepted for 20 days or until September 10, 2001. Written comments may be sent to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Environmental Management Bureau, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901, attn: Patrick Plantenberg. A public meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, August 30, 2001 in the basement of the Sheriff's Office at 121 8th Ave S. in Lewistown, MT from 7-9 pm.

Since the Final EA may only contain public comments and responses, and a list of changes to the Draft EA, please keep this Draft EA for future reference.

Warren D. McCullough, Chief
Environmental Management Bureau

Date

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